



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - February 6, 2002**

- ***In the West***, showers are returning to the ***Pacific Northwest***, further easing summer water-supply concerns in the previously drought-affected region. Meanwhile in ***California and the Southwest***, cool weather is providing beneficial “chill hours” for fruit and nut trees, but slowing vegetable and winter grain growth.
- ***On the Plains***, snow showers linger across ***southern portions of the region***, where pastures and winter grains continue to benefit from soil moisture improvements. In contrast, mild, dry, breezy weather persists from ***western Nebraska northward into Montana***, adversely affecting drought-stressed wheat.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, some light snow showers are overspreading ***southernmost portions of the region***. Elsewhere in the ***Midwest***, mild, dry weather favors livestock and overwintering wheat.
- ***In the South***, wintry precipitation (snow and freezing rain) is overspreading interior portions of the region, including the ***Tennessee Valley and southern Appalachians***. Farther south, rain in the ***Gulf Coast States*** is slowing spring planting preparations but maintaining adequate to locally excessive topsoil moisture levels.

**Outlook:** The storm system affecting the ***South*** will exit the ***southern Atlantic Coast*** by Friday, followed by a return to dry weather. A second storm is forecast to follow a similar track, crossing the ***West*** during the next few days and reaching the ***eastern half of the U.S.*** with additional rain and snow by early next week. Beneficial precipitation is forecast to continue in the ***Northwest***, but only light snow is expected along the second storm’s path across the ***Plains and Midwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 11-15 calls for above-normal temperatures across the ***eastern half of the U.S.***, but near- to below-normal temperatures in the ***West***. A wet weather pattern is expected in the ***Pacific Northwest*** and across much of the ***South and East***, but mostly dry weather is forecast across the ***northern and central Plains and the Southwest***.

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